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MARCH 1970  
VOLUME 23  
NUMBER 7

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CHICAGO  
GRADUATE  
LIBRARY  
SCHOOL

**BULLETIN  
OF THE  
CENTER FOR  
CHILDREN'S  
BOOKS**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS



## EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS is published monthly except August by The University of Chicago Press for The University of Chicago, Graduate Library School. Sara I. Fenwick, Faculty Representative; Mrs. Zena Sutherland, Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: 1 year, \$6.00; 2 years, \$12.00; 3 years, \$18.00; \$5.00 per year for each additional subscription to the same address. Single copy price: \$1.00. Checks should be made payable to The University of Chicago Press. All notices of change of address should provide *both* the old and the new address. Subscriptions will be entered to start with the first issue published after order is received. Address all inquiries about subscriptions to The University of Chicago Press, 5750 Ellis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Please send editorial correspondence, review copies and all correspondence about reviews to Mrs. Zena Sutherland, 5835 Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60637.

Second-class postage paid at Chicago, Illinois.

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PRINTED IN U.S.A.

# Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 23

March, 1970

Number 7

## *New Titles for Children and Young People*

Aldan, Daisy, comp. Poems from India; illus. by Joseph Low. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 158p. \$3.50.

R 9- A collection that is, on the whole, conservative and idealistic; the last section, poems of modern India, is the longest. The other sections are: poems of ancient India, Sanskrit court poetry, other poems of the middle period, and old Tamil poems. Although some of the poetry (or perhaps the translation) has a stiff quality, the book does give both a reflection of the pervasive religious influence in Indian literature and of contemporary writing, of which so little is available for young people. Title, author, and translator index are appended.

Archer, Jules. The Extremists; Gadflies of American Society. Hawthorn Books, 1969. 197p. illus. \$4.95.

R 8- Illustrated with old prints and cartoons, a detailed and objective history of extremists in this country; the author carefully defines the term as those "who pursued their goals by unlawful, unjust, or extravagant means—whether against the power structure, in defense of it, or against another group in the society." From the Puritans (In a chapter entitled "Ear-slicers, Witch-hunters and Rough-necks") through all of the political, racial, religious, and industrial aberrations of our society up to the demonstrations and assassinations of the sixties, the violent elements of American life are described. Covering a great deal of material and covering it well, the text has—of necessity—some fragmentation, but it is both useful as a source book and eminently readable. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Berger, Phil. Joe Namath; Maverick Quarterback. Cowles, 1969. 110p. illus. \$3.50.

Ad 6-9 A patterned sports biography, quite capably written, with the usual distribution of attention to (in order) professional play, college performance, personal life, and early years. The author is candid about Namath's childhood peccadilloes and the cheerfully acknowledged flamboyance of his private life, objective about his gridiron record, and slightly melodramatic about his injuries. Game descriptions are excellent; a section of photographs is bound into the book and an index is appended.

Bernheim, Marc. A Week in Aya's World; The Ivory Coast; written and illus. by Marc and Evelyn Bernheim. Crowell-Collier, 1969. 45p. \$4.50.

Ad 2-4 Of a new series of books about children in different parts of the world, this is the most cohesive; the Roberts book, reviewed below, is another in the series entitled "Face to Face Books", all of which are photographically illustrated. Aya is a city child living in a comfortable home; the pictures show an attractive house, scenes of school and marketplace, a visit to country relatives. Like many books of this type, both the indigenous patterns and the universality of children's lives are evident; unlike many, the book permits these facets to impress themselves on the reader rather than pointing them out didactically. There are less than the usual number of captions or text contrived to fit a photograph, although one picture of children running along a beach is used with, "Tonight Aya has a dream: she is racing with Tiro on the beach. . . ."

Bleeker, Sonia. The Ibo of Biafra; illus. by Edith G. Singer. Morrow, 1969. 160p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.36 net.

R 5-7 A fine addition to the author's series of studies of tribal cultures in Central and North America, and in Africa. Mrs. Bleeker's approach is anthropological, so that the descriptions of patterns, relationships, mores, and customs are both objective and adept; here the crisp, detailed examination of the Ibo society as it existed in the past is rounded out by a final chapter that describes recent history and the tragic attenuation of the Biafran people. An index is appended.

Bortstein, Larry. Super Joe; The Joe Namath Story. Grosset, 1969. 246p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.99 net.

M 6-9 A biography that covers the same material as does the Berger book, reviewed above, save that it does not include the post-Super Bowl incident of the restaurant ownership. Here, too, a section of photographs is included; there is no index but there are tables of statistics of Namath's pro and college play. The writing style is less restrained than that of Berger, much more inclined to trite phraseology.

Carigiet, Alois. Anton and Anne; tr. by Refna Wilkin. Walck, 1969. 41p. illus. \$7.

Ad K-2 An oversize book affords the author-illustrator a splendid opportunity to paint large-scale, effective pictures of mountain scenery and a few particularly delectable ones of a Swiss town. The story, originally published in Switzerland under the title Maurus und Madleina, has a modest plot: Anton goes from his rural home to visit his cousin Anne in the town, where they go sightseeing; on the trip back, Anne and Uncle Tim accompany Anton, and they are rescued, when trapped by a landfall, by a helicopter. Not very substantial and sedately written, but the action does have a focus and the illustrations are lovely.

Cavanna, Betty. Spice Island Mystery. Morrow, 1969. 223p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.78 net.

Ad 6-9 A mystery story set in the West Indies. Marcy, who has been away for four years in New England, has just finished high school and come back to Grenada. Marcy is disturbed by the fact that her old friend Coffee seems to be involved in smuggling; she is helped in her detective efforts by a young architect, Richard, and she discovers that there are mari-

juana packets being smuggled but that Coffee has been engaged only in some minor racket. As a mystery, this is run-of-the-mill, but the setting is interesting and the details of locale convincingly incorporated; the style is adequate, the dialogue good, and the pace well-maintained.

Cohen, Daniel. Animals of the City; illus. by Kiyō Komoda. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 95p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.83 net.

Ad  
5-8      Like City Critters by Russell, reviewed below, this goes through the roster of forms of animal life that have adapted in varying ways to urban life, discussing each separately. This is simple in style, including more animal forms but giving less information about each animal. The facts given usually include origin, eating and living habits, reproductive rate, and the ways in which the animal has adapted to man and the city as well as the ways in which it helps or harms human beings. Not quite comprehensive enough for reference use, but a concise and useful survey, capably written. A reading list and an index are appended.

Colman, Hila. Making Movies; Student Films to Features; illus. by George Guzzi. World, 1969. 191p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.61 net.

R  
7-10      Explicit and varied, written in a direct style that is both easy and dignified, this covers the same material as does the Gordon and Falk book, reviewed below. It, also, includes long quotations from interviews, but the advice or experience given here is usually more pertinent to career guidance and less personal. The author discusses the opportunities in all areas of film making, describing succinctly the duties and perquisites (if any) of each job, and mentioning the increasing participation of Negro and Puerto Rican men and women in the industry. Appendices include a list of colleges and universities that grant a degree in film (including a full listing of specific courses), a list of unions, the duties of a script supervisor, apprenticeship programs, a sample of such a program in detail, outlines of training course work processes for several positions, and an index.

Colver, Alice Ross. Say Yes to Life. Dodd, 1969. 238p. \$4.

NR  
6-9      Linda's parents don't just disapprove of their daughter's love for a boy from the lower classes, they ignore it. They ignore the evidence that her younger brother Gregory is a delinquent and a school failure, even when Linda talks about it. So Linda's two problems are assuming responsibility for her brother, and making a decision between college (which her parents want for the wrong reasons) and secretarial school (which would enable her to marry the man she loves that much sooner). The author tries valiantly to show familiarity with, and sympathy for, today's young, but the book is too cluttered with problems, subplots, and stereotyped characters for the message to come across, and the writing style is inept.

Cooke, David Cox. Inventions That Made History. Putnam, 1969. 71p. illus. \$3.29.

Ad  
5-8      A brief scanning of some of the inventions that have contributed to change and improvement in man's history, from the first use of movable type to the transistors and lasers of the atomic age. Each of thirty-two inventions is described briefly on a single page and is faced by a photo-

graph of an example of that invention. The arrangement is chronological, the choices arbitrary but logical for the most part; although the book gives too little information about any single invention to have other than browsing use, it does give both a wide view of the diversity of man's ingenuity and some indication of the fact that much-heralded inventions are often based on the work of other contributors whose mistakes and achievements enabled the credited inventors to move forward.

Coolidge, Olivia E. Tom Paine, Revolutionary. Scribner, 1969. 213p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.63 net.

R  
7- With her usual—or perhaps one should say unusual—skill at depicting a period, Mrs. Coolidge gives an infinitely detailed and vivid picture of the turbulent political affairs of France, England, and the colonies that became a country as a background for the storm-tossed career of Paine. At times a hero, at times despised for his ideas or his behavior, the obdurate champion of reason and man's rights was cast into a French prison, reviled by the British, and later rejected or ignored by some of the most ardent of friends made earlier in America. Although this is not imperfect (the author says on one page, "Truth was, Paine had become a party man . . ." and two pages later, in apparent contradiction, "If he had been a party man . . .") it is sophisticated biographical writing, giving the young reader an objective picture of the biographee, an intelligent assessment of the effect of the man on the times, and of the times and other men on the fortunes of Thomas Paine. A reading list and an index are appended.

Devlin, Wende. How Fletcher Was Hatched; by Wende and Harry Devlin. Parents' Magazine, 1969. 38p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.21 net.

Ad  
K-2 A bouncy nonsense story about a large dog suffering from feelings of rejection. His girl, Alexandra, hadn't scratched Fletcher's ears for days. All she did was play with those dumb little fluffy, yellow chicks. Well, if that was what she wanted, Fletcher could hatch out of an egg too; he had himself built into an enormous clay egg (painted a delectable pink) and waited to be discovered. In a slapstick scene, the local scientists vied in their predictions, the professor claiming that it was the Web-Footed Pickel-Faced Dinaflyer, and the science teacher that it was the egg of a Flat-Billed Prehistoric Scratchafratch. Fletcher, hearing Alexandra cry for her missing, beloved dog, emerged with alacrity. "Only in America," said the principal, adjusting his planned speech, "could a hound dog hatch!" The illustrations are pedestrian, but the slight story has action and humor.

Englehardt, Stanley L. Careers in Data Processing. Lothrop, 1969. 127p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.14 net.

R  
7-10 Following a brief but adequate resume of the simpler machines that preceded the electronic digital computer (the need for which had become established by the growing inadequacy of the punched card system) this briefly describes the binary system and operation of computers. The author discusses the range of career opportunities from technicians and machine operators to programmers and systems specialists. There is also information about middlemen and designers, about women in data



processing, and about some of the areas (medical diagnosis, primary grades education, the social sciences) in which computers are serving. There is advice given on education and on getting a job, but not in any great detail. The text is clear, well-organized, and capably written; many of the photographic illustrations are of little use. An index is appended.

Gardner, Martin. Perplexing Puzzles and Tantalizing Teasers; illus. by Laszlo Kubinyi. Simon and Schuster, 1969. 95p. \$3.95.

R  
3-6 A good book of puzzles, including scrambled words, palindromes, mazes, problems of logic, tricks with matches or money, riddles, etc. The problems are simple but few have too-obvious answers; there are enough sticklers to tempt the quick child but not so many as to discourage the slow thinker. Illustrations are clear, and answers are given at the back of the book. There are a few answers for which no logical clues have been given, but very few.

Goodall, John S. The Ballooning Adventures of Paddy Pork. Harcourt, 1969. 59p. illus. \$2.95.

Ad  
3-5  
yrs Like the first book about Paddy, the adventurous pig, this is a story in pictures, each page alternating with a half-page, so that there is a partial change of scene with each turn of the half-page. Paddy, sailing along in his balloon, spies a pig about to be eaten by gorillas and rescues her; they are threatened by storms, monsters of the sea, and land creatures, but emerge unscathed and are greeted by welcoming throngs on their return. Not very substantial, but there is plenty of action and some humor, and the half-page device very successfully builds suspense.

Gordon, George N. Your Career in Film Making; by George N. Gordon and Irving A. Falk. Messner, 1969. 224p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.64 net.

Ad  
8-10 A survey of the various kinds of films being made is based on a series of interviews with professional people in the fields of documentary and educational films, underground movies, pictures for motion picture theaters and television use, television commercials, and animated films. The authors have discussed with executives, agents, producers, actors, and independent film makers the avenues to entry and success in their careers, preparation, opportunities, salaries, unions, and other pertinent aspects of career development. Much of the material is interesting and informative, and the authors analyze responses given in a summary chapter. The writing style is often purple-tinged ("But Hollywood has been living on dreams for fifty years, and she is not going to change her ways.") but the book should be most useful to the young person considering a career in film making. A list of universities and colleges (in the order of the number of courses offered) having film courses, a reading list, and an index are appended.

Grey, Elizabeth. Behind the Scenes in the Theater. Roy, 1969. 112p. illus. \$3.95.

Ad  
7- An interesting book about the duties and prerogatives of all the people who participate in putting on a play. Unlike the author's book on making a film, this is markedly British, although much of the information applies to theatre in the United States as well. The book discusses

commercial and repertory theatre, theatre clubs, and financial backing; primarily it is devoted to descriptions of the work of the producer, stage manager, wardrobe mistress, technicians and designers, and all of the large and varied staff that work the front of the house. The writing is informal, with an occasional pinch of humor or sentiment. A glossary and an index are appended.

Gripe, Maria. Hugo and Josephine; tr. from the Swedish by Paul Britten Austin; illus. by Harald Gripe. Delacorte, 1969. 168p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.69 net.

Ad  
4-5 Starting school is a momentous experience for any child; for Josephine it held an added hazard, because the teacher and the children persisted in using her real name, Anna Grå, and she hated it. Stubbornly the small girl refused to answer to that name, and everybody teased her—until Hugo came along. A free spirit, Hugo came to school only when he had nothing more interesting to do, but Hugo found so many things interesting: carving, observing nature, collecting things. Hugo, who becomes Josephine's staunch friend and defender, is sweetly reasonable in his attitude toward the teacher, who stands just a bit in awe of him, as do the children. The closing episode of the story, and a triumph for Josephine, is the school Christmas party at which she is maid of honor to Lucia, a maid now accepted by all as Josephine—due in part to the persistence of Hugo and in part to the tactfulness of the teacher. The writing is almost childlike in its ingenuousness, the story line well-sustained, the children very natural. The age of the protagonists, the simple style, and the use of present tense indicate an audience younger than the independent reader who can cope with vocabulary and length; the story could well be used for installment reading with younger children.

Halacy, Daniel S. Experiments with Solar Energy. Norton, 1969. 147p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.14 net.

R  
6-9 "Experiments" is not precisely what the projects described here consist of; rather, they are step-by-step directions for assembling various devices for putting solar energy to practical use: a stove, a radio, a water heater, a still for extracting potable water from salt water. The author discusses solar energy in general, pointing out some of the present and future installations that use it, but most of the book is devoted to the projects. None is expensive, and none is really difficult to build, although it would be hard for a beginner to cope unless he had already acquired some basic skills. There are few pictures of diagrams to guide the reader, but no single step in construction should be incomprehensible to anyone with experience in carpentry. A list of firms engaged in solar energy applications, a brief bibliography, and an index are appended.

Hazelton, Elizabeth Baldwin. Sammy, the Crow Who Remembered; photographs by Ann Atwood. Scribner, 1969. 38p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.31 net.

Ad  
K-2 Like most books about wild creatures that have become tame, this book of photographs has a text that often seems contrived in attempting to make a story line out of what is more naturally a series of captions. The photographs are both interesting and appealing, and some of Sammy's

activities lend themselves very nicely to such fictionalization—especially those in which children play with him. Plot: Sammy finds a familiar-looking beach house, and then finds that he remembers the lady there. He makes friends with the cat and plays with the children, flies off and mates, and then is so lonely that he leaves the other birds and flies back to his human friends.

Hildick, E. W. Birdy Jones; illus. by Richard Rose. Stackpole Books, 1969. 141p. \$3.95.

M  
6-9 Subtitled, "The Amazing Story of a Pop Whistler," this is a breezy tale about Birdy, fresh out of school, and his would-be manager, Fixer Clarke. Fixer is the operator, Birdy the dolt, both pretty well stereotyped. In an effort to crash into the entertainment world, the two go from Nottinghamshire to London, where they have diverse adventures and no luck. The book (and its companion volume Birdy and the Group . . . and possibly still more) has some humor and too much action; it lacks the restraint and the deftness of other Hildick books, and it is annoyingly studded with footnotes that explain or translate British words, some of them fairly obvious from the context.

Hope-Simpson, Jacynth. The Unknown Island. Coward-McCann, 1969. 192p. \$4.50.

M  
6-9 Like other boys of ancient Greece, Philip had grown up knowing that he lived in the greatest city of the world, that no other place had the might or the grandeur of Athens. Thus it was a thing beyond belief that the barbarous Sicilians had defeated an Athenian army, and Philip was determined to sail to Syracuse and find his father. The setting and the historical background are most interesting, but the book is written in a plodding style, often repetitious and occasionally dependent on contrivance.

Hutchins, Pat. The Surprise Party; written and illus. by Pat Hutchins. Macmillan, 1969. 27p. \$4.50.

R  
K-2 For every child who has ever played the game of passing along a whispered comment that gets changed slightly by each whisperer, the pleasure of recognition will be added to the humor of the story. Rabbit whispers to Owl, "I'm having a party tomorrow. It's a surprise." By the time this has gone the rounds, there are half a dozen variations; later each animal rejects Rabbit's overtures until he realizes there is a misunderstanding and says loudly that he is giving a party. Immediate delight follows, and the surprise party is indeed a surprise. A light touch and the brand of humor that small listeners can appreciate give weight to a slight but amusing story.

Kim, Yong-Ik. Love in Winter; illus. by Park Minja. Doubleday, 1969. 206p. \$3.95.

R  
9- A baker's dozen of short stories that have a quiet and thoughtful style, subdued even when the issues and events are vitally important. The stories are all, in local color and dialogue, particularly Korean, the cultural patterns and mores affecting the action; the problems and relationships, however, are universal. Most of the stories are about personal relationships: the hare-lipped lad whose winter love is a love-

ly, fragile girl who dies; the diving girl who realizes that her new husband cares only for her income; the loving son who brings his mother a birthday dinner salvaged from a garbage heap, only to cause her death; the renegade husband who returns after seventeen years to see his only son wed. There is little humor, and not much more joy, but there is also little bitterness; the stories are a gentle reflection of the complexities and troubles that loom so large in the life of an individual.

Lionni, Leo. Alexander and the Wind-up Mouse; written and illus. by Leo Lionni. Pantheon Books, 1969. 29p. \$3.95.

R Friendship triumphs over self-interest in a slight but engaging fan-  
4-6 ciful story about a real mouse, Alexander, and a toy mouse, Willy. Sad-  
yrs ly Alexander comes to realize that all the people who shriek at him and  
chase him dote on Willy, whom they cuddle and take to bed. A wise lizard  
promises to change Alexander into a wind-up mouse if he can find a  
purple pebble—but when the big chance comes, Alexander uses his one  
wish to turn Willy (who has just been tossed away) into a real mouse.  
The oversize pages are used to full advantage for the handsomely de-  
signed collage illustrations; the story is very simply told.

McGowen, Tom. Dragon Stew; illus. by Trina Schart Hyman. Follett, 1969. 32p.  
Trade ed. \$1.95; Library ed. \$2.49 net.

R As every cook knows, it's how you handle the ingredients that makes  
K-3 the dish; here the author makes a light-hearted and palatable story by  
using familiar components in a new combination. The king, a man who  
enjoyed his food, was always losing his royal cooks because he kept  
giving culinary advice. When he held a contest to find a new cook, the  
winner was a young man who promised dragon stew—but let the king do  
all the cooking while waiting for a dragon to appear. The king was happy;  
he was even happier when he was served dragon stew one day. Turned  
out that the clever young man (who couldn't cook at all) had asked the  
dragon for his advice, and the result was a delicious dragon stew—that  
is, stew prepared by a dragon. The illustrations are gay and humorous,  
matching nicely the slight burlesque of the writing.

Morton, Miriam, comp. Voices from France; Ten Stories by French Nobel Prize  
Winners; comp. and ed. by Miriam Morton. Doubleday, 1969. 212p.  
Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$4.70 net.

R A fine anthology of distinctive writing, each selection prefaced by an  
7- editorial comment. The translation is by the editor, save for one story  
translated by Lloyd Alexander. Eight of the twelve French authors who  
have been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature are included: Camus,  
France, Gide, Martin du Gard, Mauriac, Mistral, Rolland, and Sartre.

Mother Goose. The City and Country Mother Goose; comp. by Hilde Hoffmann.  
American Heritage, 1969. 55p. illus. \$3.95.

M While custom can't stale an infinite variety of Mother Goose books,  
3-6 this edition is limited by the fact that it does not include all of the  
yrs rhymes. The illustrations are so busy that some of the humorous de-  
tails are almost lost. Cluttered but vigorous, the pictures (unfortunate-  
ly crowded, on some pages, by several rhymes on a page) show con-  
temporary scenes: a city playground, a camper-trailer, urban traffic.

Some of these are amusing or effective, some (a barnyard scene for "Bow-wow, says the dog . . ." or a mother and child for "Hush-a-bye, baby . . ." have no indication of modernity.

O'Connor, Richard. The Common Sense of Tom Paine; illus. by Richard Cuffari. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 125p. \$4.50.

Ad 6-9 Unlike the Coolidge book reviewed above, this is a highly fictionalized biography replete with dialogue; in giving information, however, it does not diverge from the facts given in other biographies. Less sophisticated and less detailed than the Coolidge book, this is not as well written as the McKown and Gurko biographies of Paine, but it is adequate. An index is appended.

Otsuka, Yuzo. Suho and the White Horse; A Legend of Mongolia; tr. by Yasuko Hirawa; illus. by Suekichi Akaba. Bobbs-Merrill, 1969. 46p. \$5.

Ad 3-4 First published in Japan, a folk tale that explains how the first horse-head fiddle (an instrument of the Mongolian steppes) was made. The style of the telling—or of the translation—is rather stiff, but the story itself is appealing. As a lad, Suho finds a white foal and raises it with love and pride; he wins a race for the hand of the princess but the governor refuses to give his daughter to a shepherd. Suho is sent home, and the beautiful horse is kept by the ruler; the horse throws the governor and runs home to Suho, but is wounded by soldiers' arrows and dies. In a dream Suho is told to use the parts of the horse to make an instrument, which he does. The pages, oversize, are well-designed for group showing, all the print being superimposed on double-page spreads; the pictures are less effective (with a few exceptions) when closely scanned, since the figures are often chunky and awkward.

Preston, Edna Mitchell. Pop Corn and Ma Goodness; illus. by Robert Andrew Parker. Viking, 1969. 30p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.13 net.

Ad 4-6 yrs Vigorous illustrations in soft water color tones face pages that describe the blitzkrieg love and the married life of Pop Corn and Ma Goodness, in a rhyming text in folk style. The two meet head-on, literally, when "The rain it starts coming a-drippitty droppetty / The lane it gets slippitty slippitty sloppetty / Old Ma goes a-flying a-flippitty floppetty / Old Pop takes a header a-dippitty doppelty / They meet—oh their heads crack a-bippitty boppetty / All doon the hill." With similar rhyming nonsense words, the two are wed, raise a family, make them a farm and build them a house, etc. The final pages cumulate all the nonsense words. There is some humor in the writing, and the rhythm has appeal, but the folksy-colloquial language almost obscures the story, which could serve as a singing game for children.

Purdy, Susan Gold. Jewish Holidays; Facts, Activities, and Crafts. Lippincott, 1969. 94p. illus. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.82 net.

R 5-7 A most useful book, and an interesting one. Each holiday is described, both as to its origins and in the traditional ways in which it is celebrated. Each is followed by directions for some project associated with the holiday: a table decoration, a toy, a recipe, puppets and costumes, greeting cards, etc. The instructions are clear, with a note that adult supervision is needed for handling any sharp tools. The body of the text

is preceded by a Jewish calendar and a brief discussion of the Jewish religion. Notes on pronunciation are included; a list of materials and foods used in the projects, and an index are appended. Particularly useful for religious education or for craft groups.

Rappaport, Eva. "Banner, Forward!" The Pictorial Biography of a Guide Dog; photographs by the author. Dutton, 1969. 127p. \$6.95.

R  
5- Excellent photographs follow the progress of Banner, a Golden Retriever, from puppyhood through all the stages of her training as a guide dog for the blind. The text, written in an easy, straightforward style, is lucid in explanation of each step in the training process and is all the more effective for an absence of pity or sentimentality. Particularly interesting and dramatic are those scenes in which the grown dogs receive the last and most demanding lessons on crowded city streets and in which the dogs and their new owners meet and practice together.

Reiss, John J. Colors. Bradbury Press, 1969. 29p. \$4.95.

R  
2-5  
yrs Lovely to look at, an excellent first book for learning or practicing the names of colors. Several pages are devoted to each color: red, blue, yellow, orange, green, purple, brown, and black. On each page, handsomely designed and striking in the shades and values of each color, are a series of familiar objects; the whole text consists of the name of the color (yellow) and the names of the objects (baby chicks, lemons, squash, bumblebees, bananas, buttercups, daffodils, daisies). The artist takes occasional liberties—the daffodils are actually brown against the yellow page—but the overall impression is of glowing, sunny, cheery yellow.

Richard, Adrienne. Pistol. Little, 1969. 245p. \$4.95.

R  
7-10 Billy Catlett tells the story of his adolescence in the depression years in Montana, where the family had settled down after years of restless job-shifting on his father's part. Although the story carries through the bitter times after the family left town so that the two boys and their father could work at a dam site, most of the book is devoted to Billy—nicknamed Pistol—as a young wrangler on a ranch, learning to gentle a horse, to round up cattle, to take with equanimity the teasing of the hands. This is a wholly convincing picture of the quiet and thoughtful growth from boy to man; Billy saw the widening gulf between himself and his family and knew that with the painful feeling of responsibility for his mother, the clear realization of his father's weakness, and the lack of rapport between himself and his brother, he would have to strike out alone—and the story ends with Billy, slim savings in hand, leaving for the Chicago stockyards. An unusual setting for an unusual depression era story in a book that is distinguished by honesty, sensitivity, and some delightful scenes of cowboy humor.

Roberts, Nancy. A Week in Robert's World: The South; photographs by Bruce Roberts. Crowell-Collier, 1969. 45p. \$4.50.

M  
2-4 Like the Bernheim book, reviewed above, photographs follow an attractive child through a normal week of school, play, and family life; in other books in the series there is a minor contretemps for change



of mood (the general ambience is best-of-all-possible-worlds) which is lacking here. The writing is stiff and quite dull. The cheerful integration of Robert's classroom (Robert is black) is in sharp contrast to the segregation of his life outside of school; otherwise there is little that is not insipid in the story, which might be about any color family in any section of the United States.

Robertson, Keith. The Money Machine; illus. by George Porter. Viking, 1969. 220p. \$4.95.

R  
5-7      At first Neil and Swede thought of the machine (a trick gadget) as only something to have fun with, but one of the people they'd fooled called the Secret Service, and the boys found that a counterfeiter was actually at work in the area. Patiently and persistently the two boys follow up clues and find that an elderly friend is being used as a dupe, innocently printing copies of rare stamps for a not-so-innocent nephew. The boys' role is credible, the plot slightly strung-out but mitigated by the lively dialogue and the brisk, easy writing style.

Rockwell, Anne. Temple on a Hill; The Building of the Parthenon. Atheneum, 1969. 108p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.81 net.

R  
5-7      When the armies of Xerxes left Greece, the citizens of Athens returned to their city to find that it had been almost entirely destroyed. Under the leadership of Themistocles, then Cimon, then Pericles, the rebuilding of the city and its temples slowly proceeded. The author describes the planning and the building of the Parthenon, the work of Phidias, and the details of architectural construction as parts of the life of ancient Athens, so that the book has artistic and historical value. The maps, drawings, and diagrams are useful; the writing style is slowing and serious, straightforward in architectural description and dramatically vivid in historical details.

Rood, Ronald N. Animal Champions; line drawings by H. B. Vestal. Grosset, 1969. 157p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.99 net.

Ad  
3-5      A somewhat misleading title, since much of the material in the book is about animal curiosities, migration, hibernation, animal structure, et cetera. These are typical chapter subjects; others do indeed include "Tops in Their Field", "Each Has Its Own Pace", and "Each Has Its Own Way." The photographs are good, but captions often are carelessly written or have no relation to the topic being discussed. The writing is simple and informal, and the book is an excellent one for browsing but too superficial—despite the index—for even minimal reference use.

Rosen, Sidney. Wizard of the Dome; R. Buckminster Fuller, Designer for the Future. Little, 1969. 189p. illus. \$4.95.

R  
7-      Buckminster Fuller had so many times been on the verge of success with his inventions, only to fail; it really seemed that he was at last going to see his dream realized when Beech Aircraft agreed to finance the manufacture of Dymaxion houses—but World War II ended and the company decided to make airplanes only. And there, again, was Bucky Fuller, a design pioneer whose work had been rejected. As he had so many times before, Fuller (now fifty) became fascinated with theoret-

ical exploration, and out of his ideas about the tetrahedron in nature and the application of geodesic structure came his now-famous domes. The book has a good balance of personal life, career and professional information, and discussion of Fuller's theories; written in an informal but dignified style, it makes clear the importance and the innovatory quality of Fuller's work without being adulatory, and it is as candid about Fuller's days of despair as it is about the basic ebullience of his nature. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Rowan, Dick. Everybody In! A Counting Book. Bradbury Press, 1969. 25p. illus. \$3.50.

Ad 3-6 yrs A book of photographs shows a swimming pool, with an additional child jumping in for each digit. The ten children are roughly the same age group and mixed as to sex and color. Facing each photograph is a page with red or yellow background, against which the large white figures and the clear black print show to advantage. The pictures are not contrived (most of the youngsters are splashing and squinting) and are not particularly attractive, but the children themselves are more interesting than the accumulated apples, books, and dogs of most counting books. All ten pictures are shown in miniature, in reverse order, at the end of the book, countdown style.

Russell, Helen Ross. City Critters; illus. by Marcia Erickson. Meredith, 1969. 169p. \$3.95.

Ad 5-9 A survey of the various forms of animal life that have adapted to the urban environment. In separate chapters the author discusses the sparrow, starling, pigeon, gull, house mouse, rat, squirrel, and earthworm; a final chapter describes some of the "uninvited guests" of city life: the spider, centipede, cockroach, etc. The book has very few illustrations, gives a considerable amount of information (chiefly about the habits and habitat of the subjects) and discusses the nuisance value or the benefit to people of the animals included. The writing style is flat and monotonous but the facts are interesting. An index is appended.

Schima, Marilyn. Something Grows; by Marilyn Schima and Polly Bolian; illus. by Polly Bolian. Prentice-Hall, 1969. 27p. \$4.25.

M 4-6 yrs A first book on reproduction uses a familiar pattern: all living things come from seeds; seeds are different shapes and sizes. Living things begin the same way, but a plant may grow from a seed in the ground, a fish egg in water, and human beings inside their mothers. After a baby is born, it needs love and protection. There is no discussion of conception or birth, and only a hint of the changes that take place during gestation; this is intended not as a full explanation of reproduction, but as a book that will help very young children understand how life begins. It is not made more useful by the illustrations, which are more decorative than they are informative. The text, which is continuous, is simply written but diffuse in treatment; although it gives accurate information, it gives it in a drawn-out fashion.

Seymour, Brenda Meredith. First ABC; written and illus. by Brenda Meredith Seymour. Walck, 1969. 38p. \$1.95.

A very small book with pictures (alternately in color and in black and

M 3-6 yrs white) that are small-scale, detail-filled, and pedestrian in concept and execution. The rhyming text places limitations on the usefulness of the book by inclusion of such words as caravan ("C is for caravan cosy and gay") and by concepts that may tax the small child ("V is for violets, soft velvet flowers"). Since the material is not unusual (same old xylophone, same old zebra) the book seems to have only marginal utility.

Shapp, Martha. Let's Find Out About Babies; by Martha and Charles Shapp and Sylvia Shepard; illus. by Carol Wilde. Watts, 1969. 47p. \$2.95.

Ad 1-2 An adequate book about reproduction, very much like many others on the same subject: all living things produce young that are like them, but not exactly; all living young come only from their own species. Some young come from eggs laid externally, some from the mother's body. The union of sperm and ovum, and the period of gestation are touched on lightly, with no mention of the sex act and no discussion of the reproductive system. Pleasantly illustrated, but not unusual in any way.

Spier, Peter. Of Dikes and Windmills; written and illus. by Peter Spier. Doubleday, 1969. 187p. Trade ed. \$5.95; Library ed. \$6.70 net.

R 6- A remarkably interesting book, profusely illustrated with maps, diagrams, and delightful drawings, and written with articulate ease. The author writes with competence of the long struggle of the Netherlands to claim and keep the land so battered by the invading seas, from the first signal victory of the water-pumping windmill to the complex hydraulic projects of today. The book is replete with anecdotes skillfully told, with colorful idiom, and with a vivid account of the 1953 flood. In addition to being a pleasure to read, the book contains a large amount of historical information. A relative index is appended.

Steele, Mary Q. Journey Outside; woodcuts by Rocco Negri. Viking, 1969. 143p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.13 net.

Ad 5-7 For all of his life, Dilar had unquestioningly accepted what Grandfather had said: the Raft People were searching, as they drifted down the dark underground river, for a Better Place. Now suspecting that they were simply circling, the boy leaped to a ledge of the cave and made his way to the strange world of grass and sunshine. In his quest for help for his own people, Dilar stays for a time in each of several cultures, each known to the other but isolated from them. The writing style is smooth, the conceptualization of each society convincing; as an entity, however, the book is somewhat fragmented and the story development sacrificed to the theme of Dilar's altruistic search. The illustrations, black and white woodcuts, are busy in detail but effective as compositions.

Steele, Max. The Cat and the Coffee Drinkers; illus. by Erik Blegvad. Harper, 1969. 42p. Trade ed. \$2.95; Library ed. \$2.92 net.

SpR 5- "Coffee," said Miss Effie, "is a beverage to be enjoyed for its flavor. It is not a food to be enriched with milk and sugar. Only certain types of people try to gain nourishment from it. In general they are the ones, I suspect, who show their emotions in public." Miss Effie was not pleased with the way her class was drinking coffee—but then they were only five. What they learned at Miss Effie's home-based kindergarten, they did not

discuss with their parents. Not the sweeping of rooms nor the training that enabled them to leave a room with dignity, how to give one's name with grace upon introduction, and other matters considered by Miss Effie to be important. This charming story of an elderly and impoverished southern institution (Miss Effie) is told by the author about his own term there during a depression period—the same school his father had attended. Unorthodox as it is, Miss Effie's school has great charm. The children are treated like adults—when her cat must be chloroformed (after an accident) she frugally does it herself and gravely enlists the children's help. Not for every child, but this should enchant those who can appreciate the story for its impeccable style and its peculiar heroine, as many adults also will do.

Stirling, Monica. The Cat from Nowhere; illus. by Erik Blegvad. Harcourt 1969. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.99 net.

Ad 3-5 The graceful style that has made the author renowned for her adult writing is the most appealing quality of a story that has an interesting setting but a rather inconclusive story line. The precision and charm of Blegvad's illustrations are just right for the subject, a small, imperious black cat who appears in a Swiss hotel and quickly establishes a stronghold. Admired by staff and guests, Negus goes his own independent way, cat-fashion; he is instrumental in the capture of a burglar and he contributes to the recovery of a small American child who has had a ski accident. When the child is well and ready to go home, her aunt arranges for Negus to travel with them—but the cat has disappeared again into nowhere, although ever afterward there are rumors that a black cat has been wandering through the mountain villages, visiting those who are ill and disappearing as soon as they have recovered.

Swarthout, Glendon. The Button Boat; by Glendon and Kathryn Swarthout; illus. by Suzanne Verrier. Doubleday, 1969. 159p. \$3.95.

Ad 5-6 What begins as a tongue-in-cheek soap opera script sags into pathos or slapstick here and there, but for most of the story this is a romp. A small girl and her smaller brother are kept in isolation by their cruel stepfather; he drinks, they work to support him—by manning the button boat, from which they catch freshwater clams, used for button-making. A bank robbery in a nearby town brings the children into contact with some people (nasty little rich girl, the handsome but not brave policeman) and almost into life's mainstream, but realism prevails: back they go to the cabin in the woods and their squalid life with stepfather. The story is overladen with dialect and contorted words (Chapter heading: "Absolootle, positivle the worst piclement a peace officer can possibly be put into."), references to the depression, sly pokes at desperate-adventure tales ("Hiss! Hiss! Who have we here? Our villainess, Diane Estelle Devere!") and intentional corn.

Wagner, Jane. J.T.; illus. by Gordon Parks. Van Nostrand, 1969. 64p. \$4.95.

Ad 4-6 You're an only child, your mother works, and you live in Harlem. Who wouldn't be tough? J.T. steals a radio from a car and is chased by older boys; he is scolded by his mother. When he finds a stray cat, J.T. pours out all his affection on the animal, for whom he makes a house out of an old stove, for whom he buys expensive tuna fish on his mother's

charge account. When the cat is killed by a car, J.T. is desolate. His grandmother, who is visiting, consoles him and establishes a new rapport between her daughter and her grandson; a neighbor (Jewish) brings J.T. a new kitten for Christmas; in a too-happy ending, J.T. puts the stolen radio back in the car, gets a job working for the neighbor, and accepts the kitten as a substitute for his beloved pet. The photographs are of excellent quality, less posed than are most such; the illustrations were made during the filming of J.T. Despite the ending, the story is realistic in presentation of both milieu and relationship, and the photographs capture the wistful loneliness of the child rather than putting emphasis on the squalor of the neighborhood.

Wahl, Jan. The Norman Rockwell Storybook. Windmill Books/ Simon and Schuster, 1969. 43p. \$4.95.

M  
4-6 An oversize book in which Rockwell's pictures (painted and copyrighted in the years 1948-1969) are accompanied by contrived little stories. The illustrations have a homely charm, the stories do not. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words.

Walden, Amelia Elizabeth. Same Scene, Different Place. Lippincott, 1969. 190p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.79 net.

NR  
7-10 Chena had come from Spanish Harlem to live with the Gordons at the suggestion of her probation officer. It was a long way from her pot-smoking friends in the Barrio to the sterile luxury of Westport—she thought. Chena soon found that some of the "nicest" people used pot when some tough boys from her old neighborhood showed up and tried to force her to help them distribute. Hostile and isolated, Chena made no friends until Jay (quiet, musically proficient, Jewish) began training her voice and the other Westport students began to notice her. The subject is of great current interest but the story is simply not convincing—neither Chena's ignored presence in the Gordon home nor the appearance of the two hoodlums. The writing style is pedestrian, the plot contrived; the story has drama and a modicum of suspense.

Walker, David E. Big Ben; illus. by Victor Ambrus. Houghton, 1969. 134p. \$3.50.

R  
4-6 Tim and Jinny Bruce knew that Big Ben, although he was a large St. Bernard, was the most amiable of dogs; they simply didn't believe the neighbor who claimed that Ben had killed his sheep. In fact, they wished Ben weren't quite so pacific. How brave Ben is, they find out when he brings an injured Tim home from the woods and frightens off a bear that proves to be the sheep-killer. The plot is standard stuff, but the writing style and characterization are of superior quality, the plot development has pace, and the book is permeated by humor.

Wallhauser, Henry T. Pioneers of Flight; illus. by Jack Woodson. Hammond, 1969. 93p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.39 net.

Ad  
5-9 Although this contains little material that cannot be found in other books on aviation history, it is a competently written record of the first flyers and the first machines. The text emphasizes flight development in the United States, goes into some detail about flying in World War II, describes the first commercial air service and the first transcontinen-

al flights, and concludes with a chapter that skims over progress after that and possible future achievements. The text is in two columns, the illustrations of variable usefulness or interest; the index is not impressive, since it contains no entries other than names (planes or people) and the entries are in some instances, fulsome: five for Wilbur Wright, eight for Orville Wright, seventeen under "Wright brothers," and a sprinkling of Wright-owned planes.

Walton, Richard J. America and the Cold War. Seabury, 1969. 197p. \$4.95.

R  
7- An important book, this is a detailed and impassionate history of the tangled international situation that has been threatening, since the end of the second world war, to erupt into conflict between the world's leaders. Incident by incident, speech by speech, decision by decision, the author examines the goals, ideals, fears, reactions, evasions, and alliances of Russia and America primarily, although he discusses China's role, the Cuban revolution, the Dominican Republic, international treaties, and the wars in Korea and Vietnam. He offers neither verdict nor solution—just facts, and is careful to so state when comments are conjectural. A section of notes, a list of important dates, a bibliography, and an index are appended.

Weiss, Harvey. Motors and Engines and How They Work. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 62p. illus. \$4.50.

R  
5-9 Written with clarity and simplicity, a book that makes principles of energy transformation and the translation of those principles into applied technology understandable to the reader with no mechanical bent. Yet the book is not too basic for those who have such talent, and models of motors and engines (water wheel, sailboat, steam turbine, etc.) are described in brief sections that depend on the diagrams (good) rather than giving step-by-step instructions. Subjects: wind, water, gravity, spring, steam, electric, gasoline, jet, and rocket engines.

Williams, Edward G. Not Like Niggers. St. Martin's, 1969. 153p. \$4.25.

Ad  
8- Life was hard for all black people in small southern towns, and the depression made it harder, but Brad's biggest problem was his mother. A bitter and hostile woman, deeply religious, she felt herself better than those around her, including her husband, and she taught her children that they too were better than the others. "You learn to talk right and not like them niggers out there," she'd say, and Brad (the youngest of three children and teller of the story) wondered just what he was. Eventually mother's recriminations and accusations drive her husband away, and it is Brad's older brother Harvey who takes charge, giving up his chance for a college scholarship to support the family. To Brad, inculcated with his mother's anti-Negro snobbery, Dad's leaving made him a nigger, shiftless and unreliable. Harvey understands the tragedy of his parent's aspirations and their failure, of their self-defeating prejudice, but Brad is too young: he has swallowed the doctrine whole. And there the book ends, with the small boy dreaming of a future in which there is no identification, no pride of race. An honest picture of the tragedy of the black person who is ashamed of being black. The characterization is convincing and the pattern of events realistic, but the writing is uneven, sometimes moving smoothly and at other times slowed by cluttered writing.



## *Reading for Teachers*

To order any of the items listed here, please write directly to the publisher of the item, and not to the BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books.

Burns, Paul and Schell, Leo. Elementary School Language Arts. Rand McNally, 1969. 552p. \$6.50.

Bone, Robert. "Negro Literature in the Secondary School: Problems and Perspectives." English Journal, April, 1969.

Cataldo, John. Words and Calligraphy for Children. Reinhold, 1969. 54p. \$7.95.

Cohen, S. Alan. Teach Them All to Read: Theory, Methods, and Materials for Teaching the Disadvantaged. Random House, 1969. 330p. \$7.50.

Faust, Helen. "Books as an Aid in Preventing Dropouts." Elementary English, February, 1969.

Henderson, Richard and Green, Donald. Reading for Meaning in the Elementary School. Prentice-Hall, 1969. 126p. paper. \$2.50.

Josephs, Lois S. "The Disadvantaged and the American Literary Heritage." The Clearing House, October, 1969.

Karlin, Robert. "What Does Research in Reading Reveal - About Reading and the High School Student?" English Journal, March, 1969.

Meltzer, Milton. "Teaching and Writing History." School Libraries, Winter, 1970.

Pellowski, Anne. "Information Center on Children's Cultures." Includes bibliography. Elementary English, March, 1969.

Pollak, Cecelia. "Mass Remediation of Children's Reading Problems." The Reading Teacher, May, 1969.

Shapiro, Phyllis. "The Language of Poetry." Elementary School Journal, December, 1969.

